



# News Release

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## **Bottled-water advisory issued for Spokane County Raceway**

**OLYMPIA** — The state Department of Health has issued a bottled-water advisory for Spokane County Raceway because *E. coli* was detected at one location during routine testing of the park's tap water.

The Department of Health advises visitors not to drink the tap water or use it for hand washing, food preparation, or oral hygiene. Bottled water will be available for sale on the premises during several events at the park throughout the weekend. The advisory only affects the Spokane County Raceway.

*E. coli* are bacteria that live in the intestines of people and animals. Although most strains are harmless, several produce toxins that can cause diarrhea. One particular *E. coli* strain called O157:H7 can cause severe diarrhea and kidney damage.

The Department of Health is working with local authorities and the Spokane County Raceway staff to ensure that public health is protected until the source of contamination can be found and repairs are made.

The health advisory is likely to extend through next week. It will remain in effect until the water system operator and the state health agency are satisfied there is no longer a health risk.

"We encourage people to protect their health by complying with this advisory," said Dr. Joel McCullough, health officer for the Spokane Regional Health District. The Spokane Regional Health District has had no confirmed reports of *E. coli*-related illness. "We will continue to monitor for potential illnesses related to the contamination of water at Spokane Raceway Park, and communicate closely with the state health department and the water system operator until the water is safe to drink."

— More —

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For more information about the advisory, call the raceway at 509-244-3333. Park patrons with health-related questions can call [Kim Papich](#), public information officer for Spokane Regional Health District, at 509-863-5003.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for *a healthy dose of information*.